

Greetings...

I am writing this evening to express my opposition to House Bill 7054 and the legalizing of Keno gambling in the State of Connecticut. Living on the boarder with Masseurhsetts and Rhode Island, both with legalized Keno gambling, it is easy to see the ill effects of the wide-spread gambling that only Keno can offer. Note that neither state is sporting an economic boom from having Keno in every bar that has an internet connection. It is reasonable to assume however that Keno increases the number of people addicted to gambling with all the negative financial and social impacts that come with it. Keno exposes families, not only individuals, to the allure of gambling. A family burger at the local restaurant turns into "just one more game please". Our casinos and lottery games should be teachers of the high price we pay as a society when we rely on games of chance for the serious business of running our state.

Connecticut has the highest per capita income in the nation, with a similarly high tax structure, yet we never seem to have enough money to do the important things - critical infrastructure repairs, making real and meaningful improvements to our education system, and investing in programs to uplift and enable those who need it most. The idea that we "need" to turn to more gambling to increase our revenues rather than reduce the burgeoning bureaucracy of our state government continues to highlight the flawed policy decisions of this administration. Frankly as a lifelong resident of this State, the last 4 1/2 years have been an utter embarrassment from my point of view.

It's time to get to work and right-size our state government, maximize the value of every tax dollar collected, and get on with bringing meaningful change to Connecticut. Let's start by NOT increasing our dependence on gambling and defeating House Bill 7054.

Thank-you for your time and consideration.

Regards,
Dave Brooks